ROOSEVELT LIKENS **BRYAN TO ARNOLD**

Refuses to Debate With Him on Subject of National Preparedness.

AXIOM IS ESTABLISHED

Says Only Chinese Reactionaries Would Call Bryan Thesis Debatable.

Theodore Roosevelt will not debate the subject of preparedness with Willam Jennings Bryan in Mudison Square Garden, although invited to do so by Edward F. Sanderson, the Rev. Percy Stickney Grant and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise. In a letter refusing the invitation Col. Roosevelt says that to debate with Mr. Bryan his views on estional preparedness would be on a par with discussing the propriety of action

such as that of Benedict Arnold. *Only the more backward among el-Chinese reactionaries would now Mr. Bryan's thesis as debatable," Col. Roosevelt, and adds that the says Col. Hoosever, and adds that the fate of China. Hyzantium and the Chosen People should be a sufficient sasser to the professional advocates of padfism. The letter follows: "SAGAMORE HILL, February 28, 1917. "Massrs. Educard F. Sanderson, Percy Stickness Group.

Percy Stickney Grant,

Stephen S. Wisc.
"GENTLEMEN: I cannot accept your
proposal of the 21st, because I regard
t as a waste of time to debate nonlebatable subjects. To debate with We Bryan his views against national Mr. Bryan his views against national preparedness would, in my judgment, he precisely on a par with decaring the undestrability of monogamous marriage or the morality of abolishing patriotism or the advantage of the re-

"At different times in the develop-ment of mankind practices such as all of these have actually obtained in cerof these have actually obtained in cer-tain societies and have been defended tain societies and have been defended by men of good intelligence. But every society that has advanced to the grade of morality and civilization necessary for the acceptance of the ideals and spiritual leadership of Washington and Lincoln has done so only by treating as axiomatic and therefore as no longer debatable certain great truths, such as the need of a clean standard in as the need of a clean standard in domestic relations, the wrong of slavery. the iniquity of corruption in public ser-vants and the high duty of prepared-pess—which is itself the handmaiden of

effective patriotism.
"If a private man commits bigamy or if a Judge renders a decision for money, we treat the action not as a subject for but as a matter for punishment. Yet the moral harm wrought by eithe prongdoer is slight compared to the lamage done this nation by the man no argues against the patriotic duty preparedness, as that patriotic duty was advocated and practised by Wash-

dispenses Mere Silliness." To debate the duty of preparedness. us the foundation for the performance of all other patriotic duty, is usaless unsail other patriotic duty, is useless unless as a preliminary we undo this work
of all our greatest men of the past, disrelive this nation into dust and etart at
the beginning by deciding whether it
was worth while for Washington to
have founded the nation and for Lincoin to have saved it. If we decide these
questions in the affirmative, it then bemes mere silliness to debate either
whether it is worth while to be patriotic
or whether it is a patriotic duty to preor whether it is a patriotic duty to preor whether it is a patriotic duty to prewhether it is worth while to be particular front.
whether it is a patriotic duty to prewhether it is worth while to be particular.

"The lowest act which they commit is

"During the last years of the Byzantine Empire the question as to whether its citizens ought to prepare themselves a subject for debate: and accordingly the Byzantine Empire went down for well deserved destruction. China accepted and acted on the doctrine now preached by Mr. Bryan, and half her territory is now under alien control. But svery forward looking and enlightened citizen of China is at present actively endeavoring to prepare his country for both war and peace, and it is only the more backward among elderly Chinese reactionaries who would now treat Mr. Bryan's thesis as debatable.

"Profoundly Immoral."

"The unpreparedness upheld by the advocates of professional pacifism does not, as is sometimes said, represent a high although impractical ideal. It is discussed to the safety of the safety of

advocates of professional pacifism dose advocates of war, adds the report, advocate of war, adds the report, advocates of war, adds the report, advocate of war, adds the report, advocates of war, advocates of war, advocates of war, advocates of war, advocates o events of the past few years to inspire sins not only against our own country but against the cause of international

American pacifism throughout these years has been the timid apologist and potent ally of the ruthless brutality of German militarism, both when that militarism has been exercised against small neutral nations like Heigium and when it has taken form in the murder of our own men, women and children and in

the dishonor of our flag.

"Men who question the need of preparedness would do well to read the
noble hook of James Beck, entitled The
War and Humanity." Mr. Beck is of
German descent and comes from the
Page loving Moraylon stock; but he is peace loving Moravian stock; but he is an American and nothing else; and, like every other man worth calling a man, dearly though he loves peace, he puts righteousness ahead of peace.

An Ancient Warning.

"In one paragraph he sums up the most pregnant of the many lessons this terrible war should hold for our people,

saibly half the tragedles of history are due to military unpreparedness, and in no way has the solemn warning of the reacher been more strikingly illus-ated, "Where there is no vision the people perish."

People perish."

"When the Chosen People were tottering to their fall they were deaf to the warning of the great prophets, even as we to-day have been deaf to the warnings thundered across the ocean. A Salvation Army friend has recently called by attention to the words of Jeremiah ((xikx, 31-32): 'Arise, get you up to the wealthy nation, that dwellath without care, saith the Lord, which has neither sates nor bars, which dwell alone. And their camels shall be a booty and the multitude of their cattle-a spoil * * and I will bring their calamity from all sides.'

"We are a wealthy nation; we dwell without care and treat the fact that we dwell alone as a merit; and now we propose to debate the wisdom of having neither gates nor bars while on all sides loom the ominous figures of the bringers of calamity. Assuredly alien foes will make of us a booty and a spoil unless in time we show that we are not unfit to be the som of the men who with fron courage faced the fron days; unless with forethought and resolute endeavor, before it is too late, before our doom is

Losses of Shipping Since February

A Berlin wireless despatch gives the following report of ships sunk by German submarines in the barred zone in the Mediterranean in a period de-scribed as "recent":

Armed transport believed to be the former Holland - America liner Statendam, largest ship re-ported torpedoed in the war, sunk February 24, 34,494 tons.

Three other transports, all es-corted by other vessels, sunk be-tween February 17 and February 24, 19,000 tons. Thirteen other ships sunk "re-

cently," 25,166 tons.

Total reported sunk, 17 ships, 78,560 tons. Allowing only for ships re-ported sunk, the names of which

are given and have not been previously reported sunk, the losses to allied and neutral commerce to date are: Ships reported sunk yes-

terday Tonnage reported sunk

Total ships sunk.....193

upon us, we set ourselves to train our vast but our soft and lazy strength.

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT." Mr. Bryan was not at all rejuctant to accept the invitation of the three gentle-men representing the Congress of Forums, but thought that it would be wise to wait until the present crisis was past before starting the debates. In a letter replying to the invitation he said that he did not think the debate should be confined to one city, but that he and Col. Roosevelt should travel over the country, ntroduction of slavery or the right of Judges to accept bribes from suitors or their discussions in public. He thought the duty of submission to the divine that each should pay his own expenses right of kings or the propriety of action such as that of Benedict Arnold.

PRISONERS AT WORK UNDER ENEMY FIRE

German Minister of War Tells of French Tactics and Reprisals.

Buntan, by wireless, March 2 .- In its News Agency, the official German news bureau, says:

"Meanwhile all committees, especially he budget committee, will get their ork into the most advanced stage possible in preparation for the second read ing of the budget on March 20, so that the session may be ready for adjourn-ment on March 30 over the Easter holi-

days."
Tiepering further the speech in the Reichstas of Gen. von Stein, Minister of War, on the treatment of German, on the treatment of German. prisoners by the Entente Allies, in which the War Minister complained that thou-sainds of German prisoners were com-pelled to work close to the front under

thus founded and thus saved. that, especially of late, they have tor-"During the last years of the Byzan- tured imprisoned Germans immediately

German people, he remarked, were in-variably good natured and even some-times oversentimental in such circumstances.

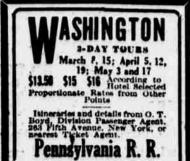
"A few days ago," he added, "the newspapers reported that on one of our northern lines imprisoned French and British officers held celebrations in the form of large festival parties on the ice As soon as I heard of it I stopped that. Gen. von Stein said that according to another report, as yet unconfirmed, pris-oners of war in Germany had formed a prisoner-workingmen's committee to hold conferences in employment negotiations. If this was the truth, he added, "then that nonsense shall be stopped.

COAMO SENDS OUT S O S.

Liner From Porte Rico Ashore Near Barengat-Danger Over.

The passenger steamship Coame of the New York and Porto Rico Line went ashore near Harnegat late last night in the driving sleet storm, but managed to get off shore again after pounding badly for some time. Wireless calls for help sent out by the

vessel brought the steamships Exper-anza. Tenadores and Essex and the coast guard cutter Mohawk speeding to her assistance. Twenty minutes after the first call Capt, Evans of the Coamo sent a wireless amouncing that the ves-sel was floating again and that he would not need assistance



34,494 TON VESSEL **VICTIM OF U-BOAT**

Berlin Reports Destruction of Huge Transport Carrying 500 Troops.

BUSY IN MEDITERRANEAN

9.000 Ton Transport and Thirteen Other Ships Sent to the Bottom.

Beatin, March 1, by wireless, March 4 -An armed transport steamer of 34,494 tons, with about 500 Colonial troops, artillery and horse on board, was sunk by a German submarine in the Mediterranean on February 24, the Admiralty announced to-day. Some of the troops on board were lost.

A troop laden transport of about 5,000 tons was sunk on February 23, it was also announced.

A 9,000 ton transport under escort is reported sent to the bottom on February 17 south of Malta, and the sinking of thirteen other vessels of a total of more than 25,000 tons is recorded. The statement reads:

"German submarines have sunk the following vessels in the barred zone of the Mediterranean:

"February 17, south of Malta, transport stanmer of about 9,000 tons, filled with cargo and escorted by other vessels, steering eastward.

Biggest Ship Sank.

"February 23, transport steamer, about 5,000 tons, crowded with troops, escorted by vessels; transport steamer, about ,000 tons, with cargo, also escorted. "February 24, armed transport steamer, 34,494 tons, with about 500 Colonial troops, artillery and horse, on board. Part of the troops were drowned.

"In addition to the transport steamers ported sunk, thirteen vessels, totalling 5,166 tons, were destroyed in the Mediterranean recently. Among them were the Italian steamer Oceania, 4,200 were the Italian steamer Oceania, 4,290 tons, with grain from America to Italy; British steamer Corso, 3,264 tons, with concealed armament and carrying 5,000 tons of manganese ore, linseed and cotton from Bombay to Hull; armed Italian steamer Prudenza, 3,307 tons, with Indian corn from Argentina to Italy;

submarine. The Lustania, of 30,396 tons, had been the largest vessel torpedoed. The White Star liner Britannic, 47,500 tons, was the largest ship sunk in the war, but she struck a mine and was not torpedoed.

Neuretania. The Statendam was build-ing in England for the Holland-America Line when the war broke out and was taken over by the British Government. Last summer word reached here that the ship was being fitted out to carry freight between New York and Liver-

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Indian corn from Argentina to Italy; Swedish steamer Skogland, 2,300 tons, with coal from Norfolk to Italy; Greek steamer Proconnissos, 3,527 tons, from Salonica to Algiers."

Probably the Statendams.

The transport of 34,494 tons reported sunk in the announcement is the largest vessel ever reported sunk by a German submarine. The Lustiania, of 30,396 tons, had been the largest vessel tors, had been the largest vessel tors.

in the war, but she struck a mine and stalian steamship Frudenza, 2,083 tons, was not torpedeed.

The description of the German Admiralty makes it appear that the ship bakar, on the West African coast, en sunk was the Statendam, rechristened the Neuretania. The Statendam was holds route, on January 31. The other ves-sels, as they are not named, cannot be said with certainty not to have been announced as sunk already by allied sources.

A notable feature of the German re-port is the number of transports, three, reported to have been sunk by subma-rines, notwithstanding the fact they were convoyed by naval vessels, prob-

Mine Sinks British Destroyer. LONDON, March 4 .- A British destroyer was sunk with all hands in the North Sea on Thursday, the Admiralty announced to-day. It is believed she struck a mine, the announcement states

TURKS DRIVEN BACK ON 80 MILE FRONT

Russian Army Advances in Persia and Threatens Town of Bijar.

London, March 4.—The Russian army in Persia is driving back the Turks on a front of eighty miles at least, and about the same distance from the border of the Turkish province of Mesopotamia. The expected beginning of the Russo-British drive to sweep the Turks from Mesopotamia seems to be taking place.

This appears from an official statement from Petrograd. Not only does the statement confirm the Reuter despatch of yesterday announcing that the BRITISH NOW HOLD the statement confirm the Reuter des-patch of yesterday announcing that the important city of Hamadan has been taken by the Russians, but it announces that the Russians have advanced at a point, eighty miles northwest of Ham-adan and threaten the town of Bijar. This advance, if pushed successfully, would strike at the rear of the Turkish army now retreating pell mell to Hag-dad, pursued by the British. Hamadan was taken on Friday, the statement says, explaining a belated announcement from

explaining a belated announcement from Constantinople that on February 26, Monday, the Russian cavairy and infantry in force were driven back near Hamadan. This was evidently the beginning of the attack on Hamadan, which appears to have succeeded in five days. The Russian statement on the Persian victory follows:

"In Persia, our detachments assumed the offensive in the direction of Bijar and occupied the village of Khanikali, two miles southwest of Bijar. As the result of operations in the Hamadan region, the city of Hamadan was captured by our troops on March 2."

Persia has been the scene of the only important fighting in the East that is reported to-day. A Russian gas attack was made near Krevo, on the main flussian front. Berlin says intense cold has sian front. Berlin says intense cold has prevented fighting.

DRIVE NEAR GORITZ FAILS. Austriana Make Vain Effort Storm Italian Lines.

LONDON, March 4 .- Austrian troops ree attempted yesterday to storm Italian positions east of Goritz after vioattacks failed with heavy losses to the strians. The statement reads: At the head of the Avisio Valley our

artillery continued to shell enemy posi-tions on the Marmolada with notice-

lery displayed great activity east of Goritz. During the aftermoon, after violent artillery and trench mortar preparation, the enemy attempted to storm these positions in force, but was driven back with heavy loss. Some detachments of the Ninety-fourth In-fantry Regiment launched a vigorous counter attack, which resulted in the capture of thirty-two prisoners, in-

TOKIO MURDER NOT SOLVED. Mystery Still Hides Death of Mrs

Von Saldern. TOKIO, March 4.—The mystery of the recent murder of Mrs. von Saldern, wife of Lieut, von Saldern, a German war prisoner, and daugater of Vice-Admiral von Capelle, the German Minister of the Navy, has not yet been solved.

It is understood that Mrs. von Saldern desired to leave the transport of the by Incessant Bombarddesired to leave Japan, but that her hus band prevailed on her to remain. After the murder of the woman Lieut, von

Saldern committed suicide owing to re-

ALL SOMME FRONT Continued from First Page thrust them out, restoring their line con pletely. The official statements follow: British-This morning we attacked and captured the enemy's front and support lines east of Bouchavesnes on

a front of 1,200 yards, taking 173 prisoners and three macrane guns. During the day we repulsed with heavy enemy losses several counter attacks. Advance on Two Mile Front.

East of Commecourt the enemy continued to yield ground. In this neigh-borhood we advanced along a two mile front to an average depth of 1,200 Six prisoners were taken in a suc-

easful raid last night northeast of Ablaincourt. During the last twenty-four hours we have captured a total of 199 prisoners, five machine guns and two trench mortars. German-During the morning hours there was lively righting activity north of the Somme and on the east bank of the Mense. Numerous air engage-

ments occurred. flecause of the bad weather the fighting activity has almost without exception remained within moderate limits. Our own enterprises were suc cessful at several places. Near Chilly, between the Somme and the Avre, eighteen British were brought in as prisoners; on the road from Etain to Verdun more than 100 French were captured and on both sides of Doller. opper Alcase, thirty-seven French wer

French-East of the Meuse artillery fighting took place in the sector of Caurieres wood. A German attack, after an intense bombardment in the morning in the region north of Pix, was delivered in the afternoon against our positions at Vieveterie T enemy, who had succeeded in enter-our first lines, was completely eje: by our fire and our counter atta Our line was completely reestablished.
West of the Meuse we effectively
shelled enemy batteries in the resion
of Malineourt. In the direction of Boureuilles a surprise attack on a hos-tile trench enabled us to take pris-

RETREAT FORCED BY BRITISH GUNS

London, March 4 —Whatever may be the ultimate strategy lying behind the Ger-man retirement between Gommecourt near Bajaume plainly reveals the immediate reason for their abandonment. They have been smashed to pieces by the diate reason for their abandonment, they have been smashed to pieces by the linessant and ever increasing British artillery fire.

Communication trenches, built for the purpose of bringing up food and ammunition, had been flattened almost beyond recognition, and bed loss sizes caseed.

nition, had been flattened almost beyond recognition and had long since ceased to serve their purpose. The wide belt of area back of the derman lines had been lushed by bursting shells until it had become practically impassable. For hours at a time, often for, days, the drum fire of the British guns made it impossible for any man to reach or leave the trenches. Some of the prisoners recently taken said they had been cut off from food for forty-eight hours by the barrage back of their trenches.

The British outposts are established well beyond the old German front line positions, and although the German guns are constantly sweeping the evacuated

are constantly sweeping the evacuated territory with violent bombardments it was possible yesterday to visit and in-spect some of the trenches and strong spect some of the trenches and strong points, which apparently the Germans could no longer maintain in a defensible condition. The abandoned ground was covered with hundreds of German dead. Large British burying parties, ignoring German shells and snipers, have been hosy for several days clearing up the dead, but the task is still a long way from completion. In front of the old decrease lines near Le Barnes were German lines near Le Barque were derman lines hear Le Barque were hodies which had lain there since last November, when the Germans attempted an attack, but were shot down while leaving their trenches. The unceasing artillery and rifle fire had prevented

lost heavily in abandoning their positered behind the lines—those of freshly fallen men. The tiermans are continu-ing their strong defensive rear guard actions all along the line, but the British appear able to move forward and con-

BRITISH LOSSES HEAVY.

Berlin Critic Says Haig's Men Are Helpless in Mud.

Bratan, by wireless, March 4.—The German positions given up in the Ancre region on the Somme front were demolshed positions "methodically evacuated for strategical reason during the second half of February," writes the military critic critic of the Overseas News Agency (the official German news bureau). The

new dispositions, he declares, have placed the Germans on firm ground, while the British are struggling in the mud of the Ancre swamps to establish themselves under the fire of the German guns, which have the range of all points

in the entire evacuated area.

"The moving back of the line," the writer continues, "was carried out unnoticed by the enemy and without losses. Weak German rear guards masked the move from the enemy and for days held up the British, who were hesitatingly ground their way forward. ments.

groping their way forward. During all the rear guard combats these German detachments, depending entirely on themselves, inflicted heavy losses upon the British masses slowly rolling ahead. "From the horrible swamps into which the terrain in the Ancre region has been man retirement between Commecourt turned by snow, rain and shells the and Le Transloy, even a most casual inspection of some of the evacuated lines ground, while the British are lying to morassy craters under the most unfa

filled up and the roads exist only on the

Want in Baltimore Decreases. Baltimore, Md., March 4.—Official figures announced by the Federated Charities Board of this city show that suffering and need among the poor here have decreased so far this year 8 per cent. as compared with last year. While

it is asserted the pinch of high prices is being felt, it is said there is an un-usually small percentage of unemployed in Baltimore this year.

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If you intend to build or remodel this Spring, do not neglect to read our book "Ideal Heating." A copy will be sent free on request. It contains most valuable information for owner or tenant about this heat that costs the least—no obligation to purchase.





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